

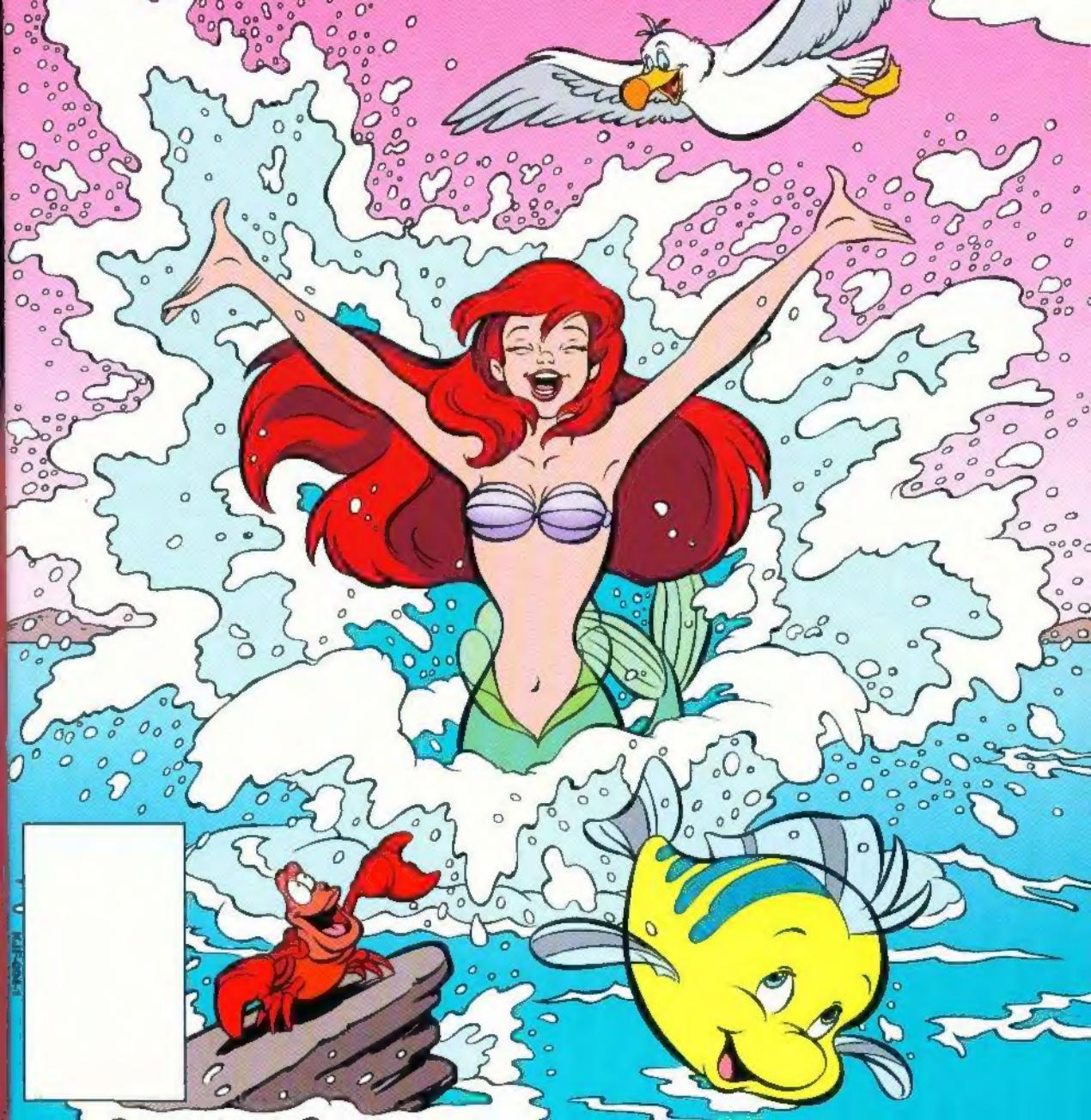
A DISNEY COMICS LIMITED SERIES

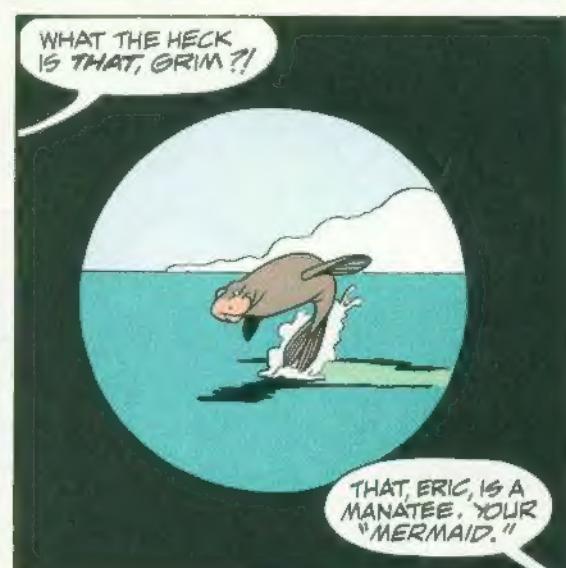
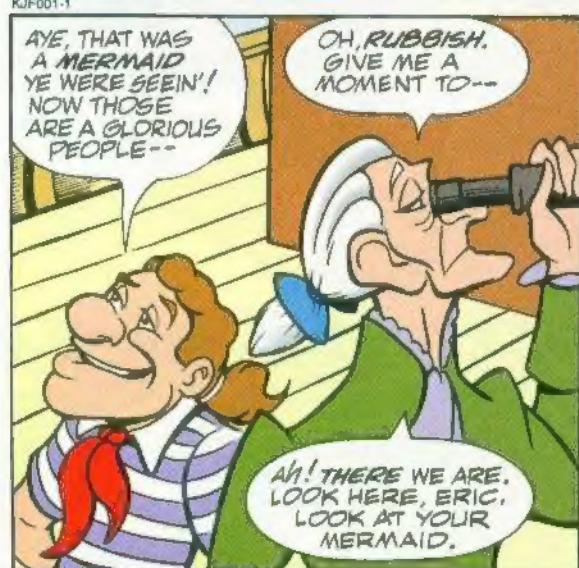


1 OF 4 \$1.50 US
\$1.95 CAN

Disney's

THE LITTLE MERMAID





Once upon a time...

THERE WAS A YOUNG LADY NAMED ARIEL WHO CAME FROM BENEATH THE WAVES TO BE WITH HER PRINCE, RISKED EVERYTHING FOR HIS LOVE, AND LIVED HAPPILY EVER AFTER.



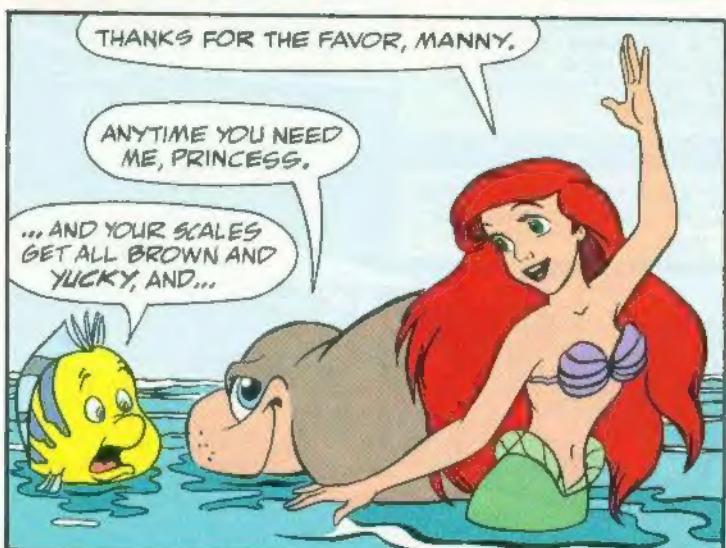
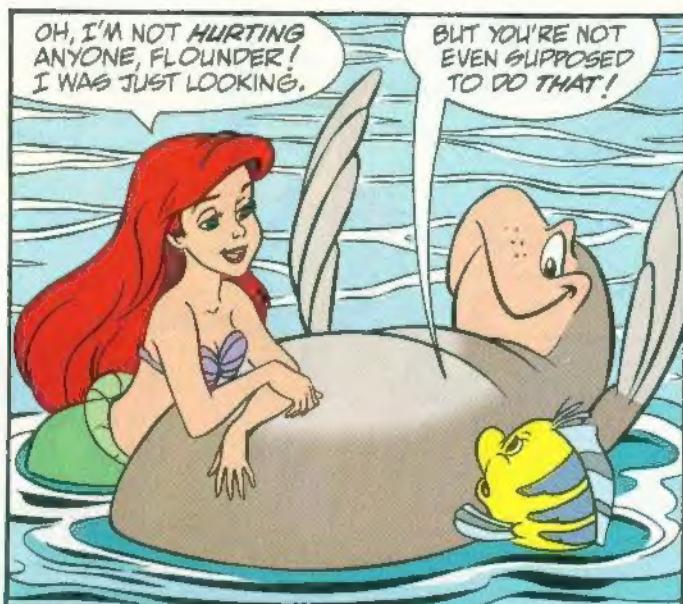
BUT THERE WERE MANY YEARS OF HOPING, DREAMING AND ADVENTURING BEFORE HER LIFE ON LAND BEGAN, YEARS SUCH AS THIS ONE--WHEN SHE HAD JUST TURNED FIFTEEN--

AND A LIFE ABOVE THE WAVES WAS A MERE FANTASY, AS MUCH OF A FANTASY TO THE GIRL, WHO LIVED ON THE OCEAN FLOOR, AS HER OWN EXISTENCE WOULD BE TO THOSE WHO LIVED ON PARQUET FLOORS.

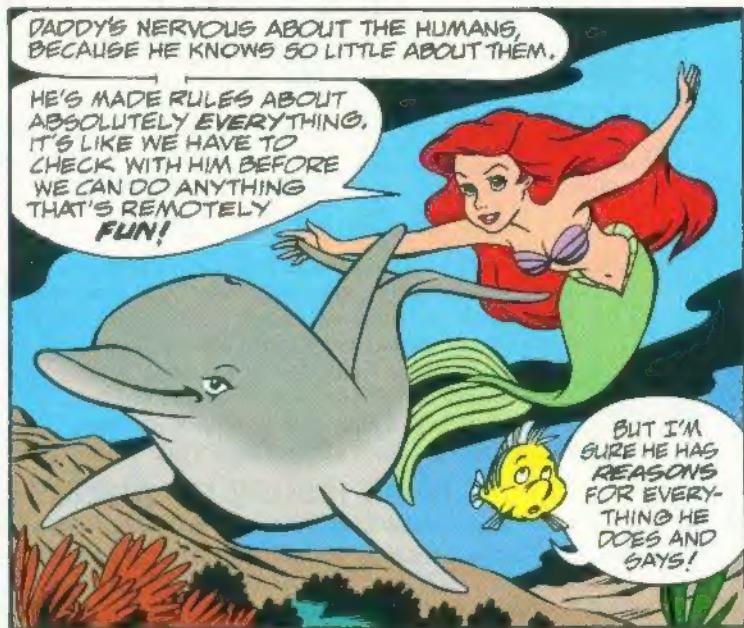
FOR, WHEN ALL WAS SAID AND DONE, THEY WERE STILL THE FORBIDDEN HUMANS. AND SHE, OF COURSE, WAS...

Disney

THE LITTLE MERMAID









ARIEL, WAIT! WE'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO COME OUT THIS FAR!

THERE'S BOUNDARIES YOUR FATHER GET! OFFICIAL BORDERS! AND WE'RE ABOUT TO CROSS ONE! WELL BE OUTSIDE OF THE MERPEOPLE TERRITORY!

NOW THERE YOU GO AGAIN, FLOUNDER!



BORDERS ARE JUST MADE-UP LINES! LOOK DOWN THERE. DO YOU SEE ANY LINES?

WELL... AH... NO.

THERE, Y' SEE?

WHY SHOULD I WORRY ABOUT IMAGINARY LINES? AM I AN IMAGINARY MERMAID?

ALL THAT MATTERS ARE THE THINGS YOU CAN SEE, FLOUNDER!



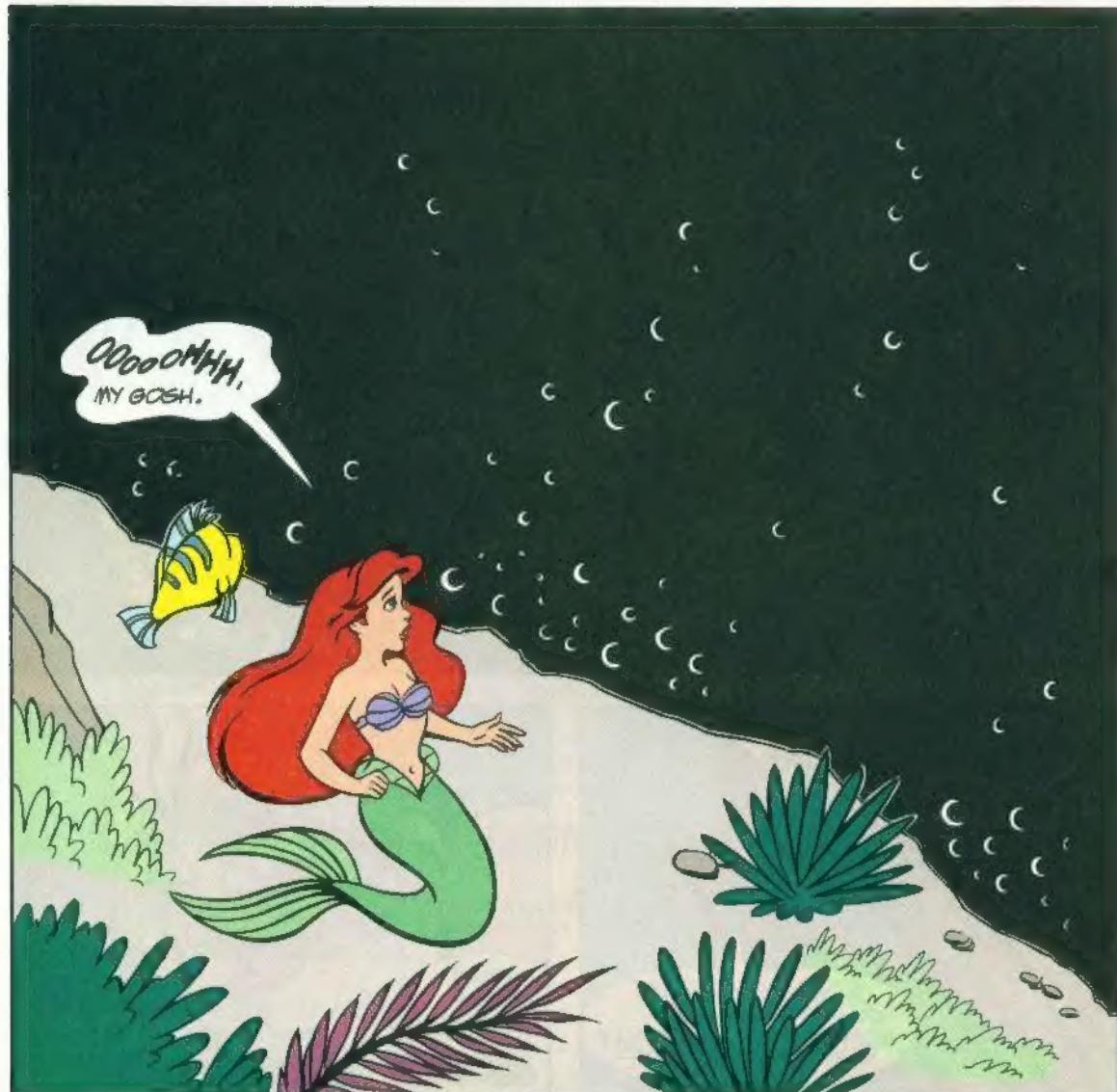
RULES ARE FINE FOR WHEN YOU'RE LITTLE AND DON'T KNOW ANY BETTER. BUT I'M NOT A CHILD ANYMORE.

YOU HAVE TO KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN, NOT CLOSE THEM IN FEAR!

JUST BECAUSE DADDY SAYS THIS AND THAT AND WHATEVER, DOES THAT MEAN I DON'T HAVE A MIND OF MY OWN? I'M OLD ENOUGH TO MAKE MY OWN RULES AND DO WHAT I THINK IS RIGHT AND WHAT I FEEL LIKE DO--



-- HHHHHHHGGG!





THIS IS INCREDIBLE! ALL SORTS OF CREATURES I'VE NEVER EVEN HEARD OF, MUCH LESS SEEN! LOOK AT ALL THIS!

FLOUNDER, WHEN WAS THE LAST TIME YOU SAW ANYTHING REMOTELY LIKE THIS?

N MY NUH... NIGHTMARES.



FLOUNDER, LOOK! IT'S A THING-AMABOB!

AW, ARIEL, WHATTAYA NEED ANOTHER ONE OF THOSE FOR? YOU'VE GOT NINETEEN ALREADY!



SO NOW I'LL HAVE TWENTY.

ARE YOU SURE THEY'RE FOR KEEPING YOUR HAIR IN PLACE?

HOW DOES IT LOOK?

OH, SCUTTLE WAS ABSOLUTELY POSITIVE OF IT.



YEAH, WELL, SOMETIMES I WONDER JUST HOW SMART HE REALLY IS.

LOOK! THERE'S SOMETHING ELSE!



YOU KNOW, MAYBE WE SHOULD JUST TAKE THE THINGAMABOB AND GO...

THAT'S ALL YOU EVER WANT TO DO, FLOUNDER.

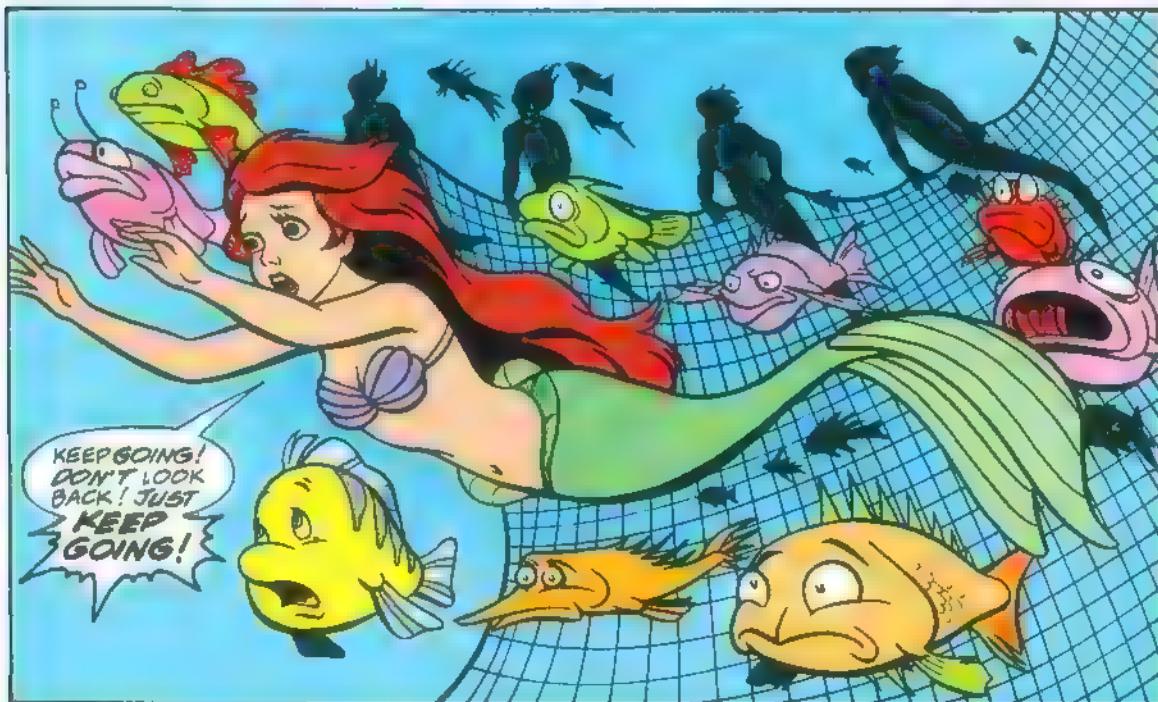
HOLD ON! IT'S COMING LOOSE!

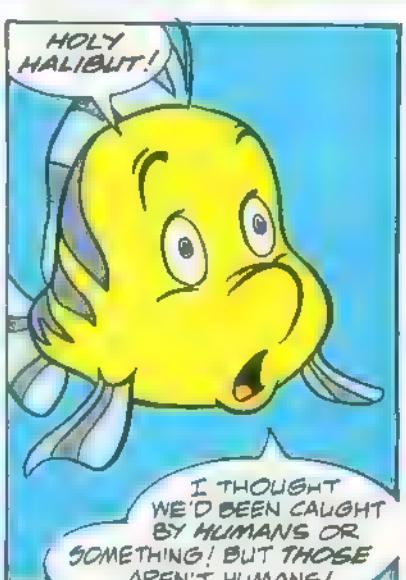


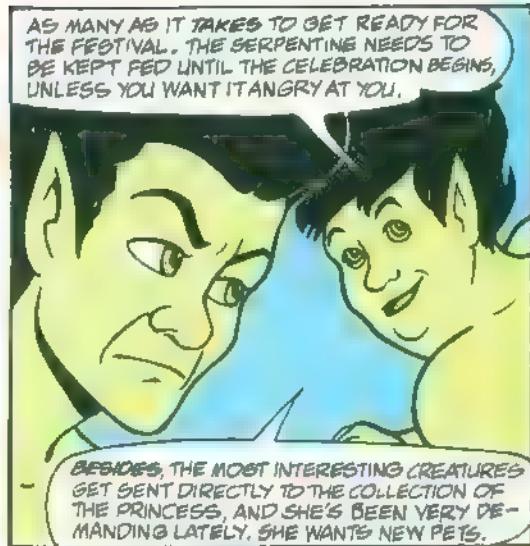
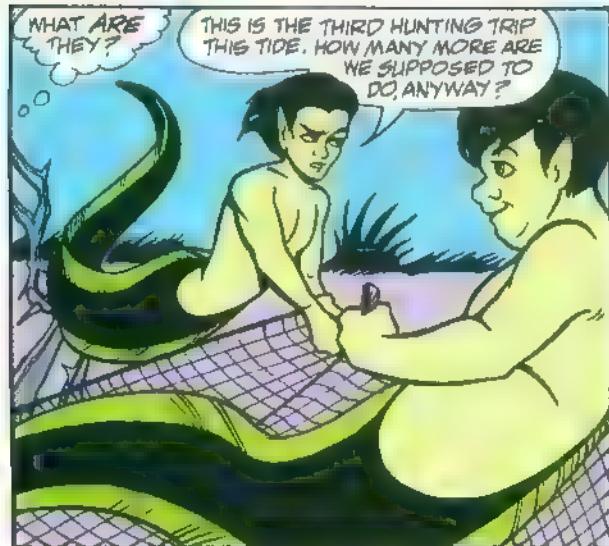
UHHHHHHH!!

AAAAAHHHH!!



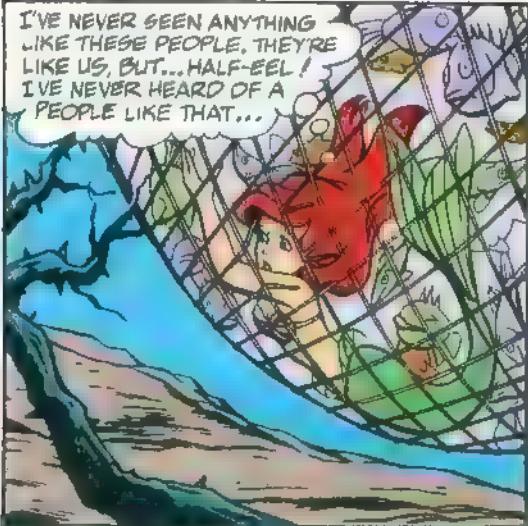




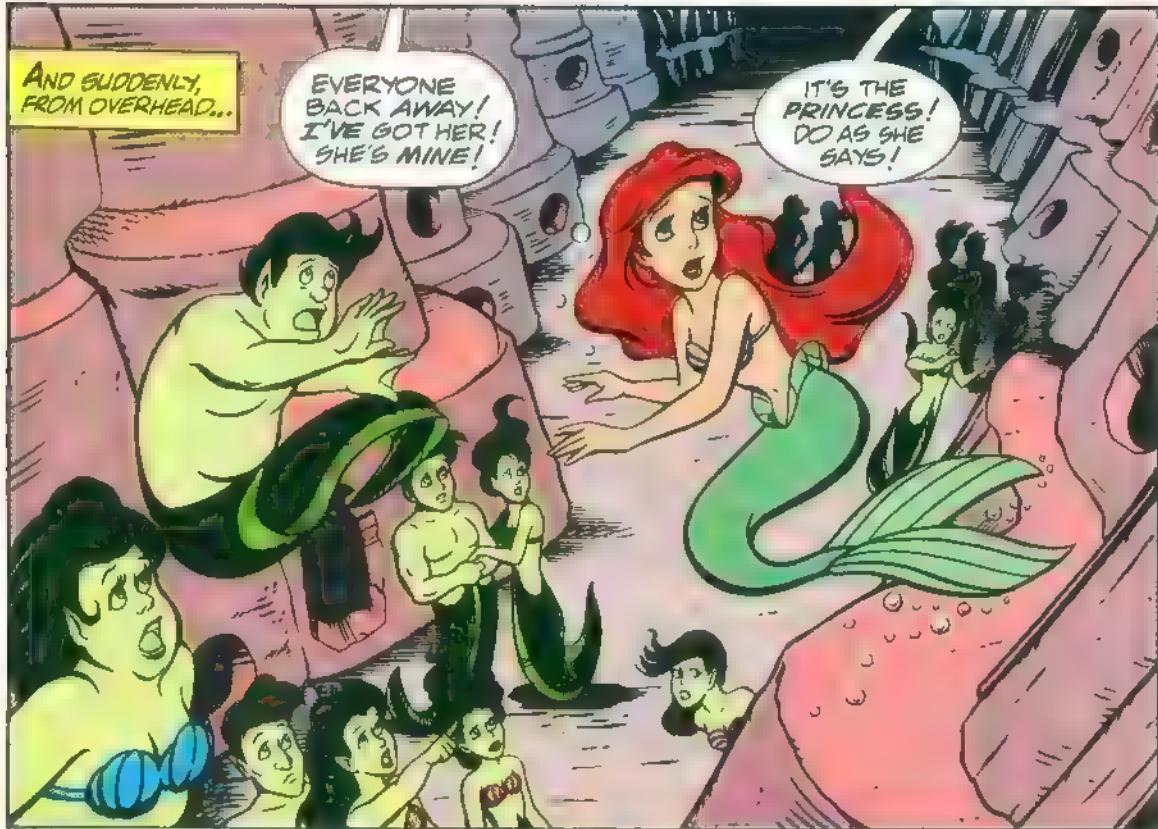


I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYTHING
LIKE THESE PEOPLE. THEY'RE
LIKE US, BUT...HALF-EEL!
I'VE NEVER HEARD OF A
PEOPLE LIKE THAT...

"...OR A CITY
LIKE THAT!"







I CAN'T BELIEVE DIS IS
HAPPENING! HALF-SERPENTS,
YOU SAID?! DIS ISN'T ONE
OF YOUR STORIES NOW,
IS IT?



DO I LOOK LIKE
I'M MAKING THIS
UP?!



IF HER FATHER FINDS OUT...

OHMM, HE'D BE FURIOUS,
AND DAT'S A FACT. I HATE
TO ADMIT HOW MUCH I LIKE
DAT GIRL... SO BEAUTIFUL,
WID A LOVELY
VOICE...

IF ONLY SHE
USED DA HEAD
DAT DA VOICE
CAME IN EVERY
NOW AND
DEN...



WHY ME? WHY
ARE YOU DRAGGING
ME INTO DIS?



BECAUSE YOU'RE THE ONLY
GROWN-UP I FELT COMFORTABLE
GOING TO, SINCE YOU'RE THE
ONLY ONE SMALLER THAN I
AM. IF I SAY THAT, YOU'LL
JUST GET MAD...



DIS IS
TRUE.



NOW THAT'S ODD. I CAN'T RECALL EVER SEEING SEBASTIAN AND FLOUNDER HANGING ABOUT WITH EACH OTHER...

YET THERE THEY ARE... AND GOING SOMEPLACE IN AN AWFUL HURRY.

I'LL BET IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH ARIEL. THAT'S THE ONLY THING THAT COULD GET FLOUNDER MOVING THAT QUICKLY.



THEN AGAIN, WHAT IF I'M WRONG? AM I SUPPOSED TO ASSIGN MEN TO FOLLOW THEM, AND IT TURNS OUT TO BE NOTHING? AND THEY'LL SAY, "THERE'S AQUATA AGAIN, PANICKING AS ALWAYS. SOME RULER-IN-TRAINING SHE IS."

AND THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT I'M DOING. BEIDES, WHATEVER ARIEL'S GOTTEN HERSELF MIXED UP IN...

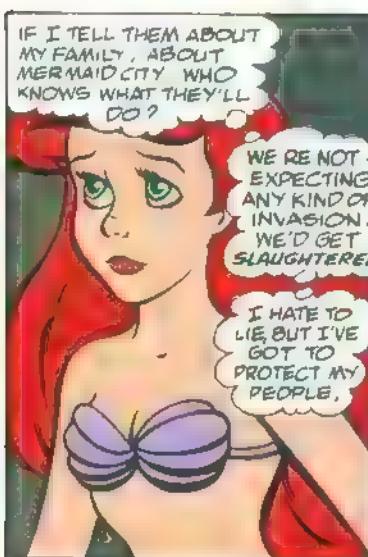
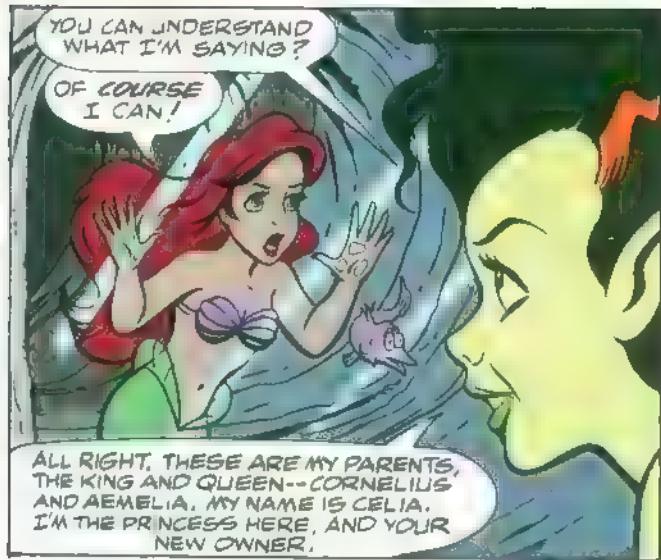
FATHER WOULDN'T FEEL THE NEED TO GET HELP. HE'D SEE WHAT WAS GOING ON PERSONALLY.

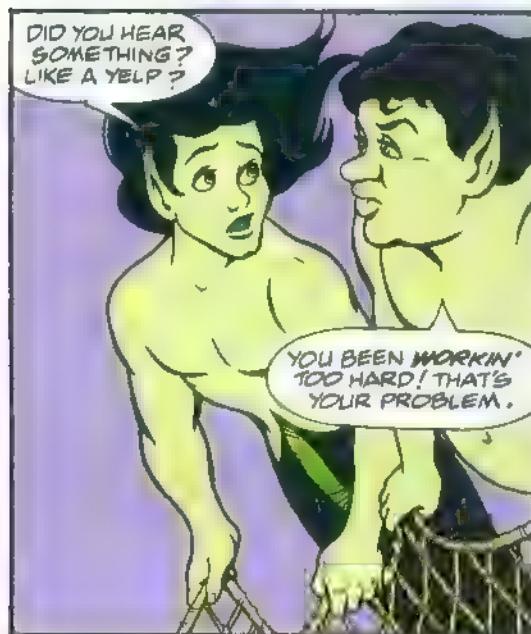


"I'M SURE I CAN GET HER OUT OF IT."

INCREDIBLE. JUST INCREDIBLE.

WHO COULD HAVE THOUGHT IT POSSIBLE? A CREATURE OF MYTH, RIGHT IN FRONT OF US.





SO, HOW IS MY LATEST PET?
ENJOYING YOUR NEW HOME?

WOULD YOU BE UPSET
IF I SAID "NO?"

NOT
ESPECIALLY.

TOO
BAD.

LISTEN TO ME, CELIA.
KEEPING ME PRISONER
LIKE THIS... IT ISN'T
RIGHT! YOU SHOULDN'T
KEEP ME PENNED UP,

WHY
NOT?

BECAUSE I'M
ENTITLED TO
BE FREE!

I CAUGHT YOU, FAIR AND SQUARE. AND I BELIEVE
THAT IF YOU SEE SOMETHING YOU WANT, YOU
TAKE IT, AND IT'S YOURS.

DIDN'T YOU HEAR ME?
I SAID IT WASN'T RIGHT!
THINKING CREATURES
JUST DON'T TREAT
EACH OTHER THAT
WAY! THERE ARE
CERTAIN LAWS OF
NATURE, AND...

WHAT LAWS? I DIDN'T
SEE ANY LAWS WRITTEN
DOWN ANYWHERE. AND
BESIDES, LAWS ARE
JUST WORDS,
THAT'S ALL.

I'M NOT ALLOWED TO
COME TO MY OWN CON-
CLUSIONS? WHAT DOES
IT MATTER WHETHER
THERE'S SOME LAW,
REAL OR
IMAGINED?

IM OLD ENOUGH
TO MAKE MY OWN
LAWS, AND DO WHAT
I WANT TO.

ALTHOUGH I
DON'T SUPPOSE
YOU'D AGREE
WITH THAT.

WHAT ARE
YOU SMIRKING
ABOUT?

JUST THINKING ABOUT
HOW FAMILAR YOUR
ATTITUDE SOUNDS.

SO! YOU'RE THE ONLY ONE
OF YOUR KIND, EH?

UH... YES. JUST
ME. NO ONE
ELSE.

HOW
INTERESTING.
COME.
WE'RE
GOING
OUT.

THIS IS THE SERPENTINE CELEBRATION, ARIEL. ONE OF OUR MOST POPULAR EVENTS...

...IT CELEBRATES THE STRENGTH AND SKILL OF OUR HUNTERS AND WARRIORS. THEY NEED SOMETHING TO KEEP THEMSELVES SHARP... ESPECIALLY SINCE WE HAVE NO ENEMIES TO FIGHT.

OF COURSE, THAT WOULD CHANGE IF THERE WERE ANOTHER UNDERSEA RACE TO CONQUER. A PITY YOU'RE ONE OF A KIND.

I HOPE THOSE WEIGHTS AREN'T TOO UNCOMFORTABLE. BUT WE COULDN'T TAKE THE CHANCE OF YOU JUST SWIMMING OFF, COULD WE?

OH, CERTAINLY NOT.

WHAT HAPPENS IS, WE RELEASE OUR BEST HUNTERS INTO THE SERPENTINE MAZE WITH JUST SIMPLE KNIVES, AND THEY HAVE TO HUNT DOWN AND KILL A VERY SPECIAL TYPE OF BEAST THAT WE CAPTURED JUST FOR THE OCCASION. BEFORE THE BEAST KILLS THEM, OF COURSE.

SOUNDS CHARMING.

DOESN'T IT, THOUGH? AND WE HAVE SENTINELS WHO KEEP THE NET HEAVILY ELECTRIFIED SO THAT NO ONE CAN ESCAPE.

THIS YEAR, HOWEVER, SOMETHING HAS JUST COME UP. SO BEFORE WE RELEASE THE HUNTERS, WE'VE DECIDED TO GIVE THE BEAST A BIT OF A SNACK.

AH, THERE'S THE SNACK NOW.

YOU TOLD ME, ARIEL, THAT YOU WERE ONE OF A KIND. YET LOOK WHAT WE CAUGHT. AND I SUSPECT NOW THAT THERE'S A GREAT DEAL MORE OF YOU.

"MOTHER WAS A DOLPHIN," INDEED. YOU SHOULD CHOOSE YOUR LIES MORE CAREFULLY.

NOW, I DON'T NEED BOTH OF YOU. WHAT I DO NEED IS INFORMATION. AND YOU'RE GOING TO GIVE IT TO ME, ARIEL. YOU'RE GOING TO TELL ME PRECISELY WHERE YOU COME FROM, AND EVERYTHING ABOUT YOUR PEOPLE THERE IS TO KNOW...



"...OR OTHERWISE YOUR FRIEND DOWN THERE IS GOING TO BE FISH FOOD.



NEXT: SERPENT TEEN



Under the Sea

Send to:
Disney Comics
500 South Buena Vista Street
Burbank, California 91521-6850

Welcome to the first issue of our Little Mermaid limited series. We hope that you'll enjoy these tales of Ariel, Sebastian, Flounder, Scuttle and all of our other friends.

What's up in future issues? Well, I don't want to give too much away too soon...let's just say that all of your favorites will be pretty busy in the months ahead.

Writer Peter David will be with us, along with a variety of artists, such as Bill Fugate (who has drawn for *Roger Rabbit's Toontown* and *Mickey Mouse Adventures*); Mark Marderosian, who drew this issue's centerspread; newcomer Scott Benfield; and Disney animator Dan Gracey. Dave Hunt will be along for the inks.

Our covers will come from such stars as Steve Rude (of *Nexus* and other fine comics) and Philo Barnhart, one of the original designers and animators of Ariel.

Of course, there's someone else whom we'll need on this journey: you. Write to us. Let us know what you like. We'll pay attention.

Since we don't have any letters yet, we'll present a behind-the-scenes treat: an analysis of Ariel given to Disney artists by directing animator Glen Keane. It's dated October 20, 1988, when *The Little Mermaid* was in production.

Ariel

The youngest of seven daughters, Ariel is sixteen years old.

Of the seven, she is the quirky one. Her sisters conform to their roles as princesses and take themselves more seriously than Ariel. Ariel thinks for herself and is independent, impulsive and curious about everything (particularly things dealing with the surface). She does not think things through logically but is motivated by her feelings and emotions.

Ariel is a typical teenage girl with a sense of adventure and romance. She longs to be free of the restrictions set upon her by her environment and by Triton, her father.

She loves her father, and he loves her. He wants what is best for her but does not relate to how she feels. Ariel is Triton's biggest headache but also occupies the place closest to this heart. There is actually a lot of Triton in Ariel. They are both headstrong and act with deep conviction.

Ariel is not passive. She makes things happen. She goes 100 percent in whatever direction she decides. She is uninhibited.

Ariel's fiery side, red hair and all, is balanced by her sweetness. She is naive and innocent, making her vulnerable to the evil intentions of Ursula. She is open to being hurt deeply and is hurt by her father as he destroys her collection and by Ursula as she destroys Ariel's hope of true love and remaining human.

These qualities are all inner. On the outside, Ariel has a sweet beauty. Her face is pretty, leaning to the cute side rather than the glamorous side.

She is sexy in an innocent way, unaware of her natural beauty and appeal. When she moves, there should be an inherent grace and vitality.

She is petite but not frail. Her spontaneous, impulsive personality comes through in her actions.

When animating Ariel, pay close attention to who it is you're animating. Ask yourself:

- Am I animating Ariel in this scene, or could this be any girl?
- How would Ariel do this action?
- How does Ariel feel? What is she thinking?

• What is uniquely Ariel in the way I'm animating her?

Some further notes on animating Ariel:

Fluidity is a key word in how she moves. Her actions are not jerky and stiff but rhythmic and fluid.

Keeping a clear line of action in her pose will help.

Her timing should reflect her impulsive personality. Snappy timing in a head turn or fin swish will give her a brighter, more perky feel.

adventure, as Triton and Ursula confront the Moray, Ariel faces the Serpentine, and Sebastian and Flounder try not to get killed! From Peter David, Bill Fugate and Lea Hernandez comes "Serpent Teen." Plus a short Sebastian story by Peter David and Dan Gracey.

It's all on sale in January under a cover by Steve Rude.



Credits

"The Little Mermaid"

Written by Peter David
Penciled by Chuck Austen
Finished and inked by Lea Hernandez and Dave Hunt
Lettered by Gaspar Saladino
Colored by Jo Meugnot

Mini-poster

Penciled by Mark Marderosian
Inked by Gary Martin
Colored by Jo Meugnot

Cover

Penciled by Dave Pacheco
Inked by Brian Garvey
Colored by Jo Meugnot

Special thanks to Philo Barnhart and Dave Pacheco for character keying.

Next issue

It's the conclusion of this issue's